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Examiner Bryan S. Tung
Group Art Unit 2615
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

by FAX only

RE: serial 08/046,335

Dear Mr. Tung:

Thanks for your time and patience in our interview yesterday. Please give my thanks to Mr. Chin too.

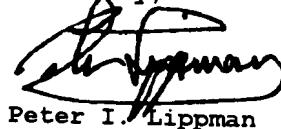
As promised I have given some thought to how the scale and general character of operation of the invention might be expressed, to help distinguish the cited art. It seems to me that our clients' invention is --

a system capable of imaging ocean volumes on the order of many millions of cubic meters in the course of a single observation session.

This distinguishes both Kato's lab scale and Takaoka's topo maps, and is inherent in the description of the invention as filed. (If you'd like to go over some of the arithmetic on the phone, just let me know.)

We would be glad to have such an expression placed either in preamble or in body of the claims -- as for example in a "whereby" clause or a limiting "wherein" clause. Depending on the specific application of the invention, a "single observation session" could last from, say, an hour to a day.

Cordially,



Peter I. Lippman

cc by FAX: Dr. Lubard; Mr. Bowker